

Each candle lit at the close of the Memory Grove ceremony represented 1,000 people who were killed by the atomic bomb in Hiroshima.



Alice Kasai

In a grove's quiet, Utahns remember Hiroshima's horror

By Ellen Fagg

Deseret News staff writer

Hiroshima native Tosh Kano was born six months after the city was devastated by the world's first atomic bomb, Big Boy.

"It is a tragedy to use this type of weapon against mankind," Kano said.

Kano, Salt Lake County's traffic engineer, recalled through the eyes of his family the details of the day that etched the name Hiroshima on the conscience of people throughout the world. He thinks there is a reason for the coincidences that saved the lives of his parents and sister on Aug. 6, 1945.

"My mother and my father firmly believed that I was saved for a purpose. And I do believe one of the purposes is for me to speak to you today," said the man doctors claimed would not see his third birthday.

War veterans, Japanese-Americans and other Utahns gathered Tuesday evening in Memory Grove at a vigil to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. More than 100 spectators joined folk singers mouthing hopeful lyrics of peace, heard speeches and Mayor Palmer DePaulis' official proclamation, and watched children dancing in memory of lives cut short by nuclear radiation.

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Tosh Kano

tell you of some of the experiences of my family," he said. "We, the victims, always have a fear in the back of our

group opposed to the arms race. DePaulis proclaimed Aug. 6, 1985, as a day to remember all victims of

long life. Sadako, a young girl dying of cancer, believed that her health would be

world." To close the ceremony, candles were lit to represent those killed by the atomic bomb.

Utah has a share in the shame: Topaz

On the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Japan, a few shameful memories remain to tarnish what Americans like to remember as the "Good War."

One is Topaz, a deceptively pretty name for a dismal spot in the Utah desert where white Americans put Japanese Americans in a concentration camp.

Soon after Pearl Harbor, thousands of Japanese-Americans, along with Japanese aliens, were loaded on trains and shipped to camps scattered throughout the West. Despite many of the younger internees being born in America, they were considered dangerous people.

Two Americans closely involved

with Topaz met on KUED Channel 7's Civic Dialogue program to reminisce about Topaz. The program is produced in cooperation with the Deseret News.

"We had our citizenship, but still, we were Japanese," said Doris Matsuura, who was shipped from California to spend the duration of the war in the harsh landscape of Topaz. "I don't think there was a soul there who would think of trading his loyalty for Japan."

One of the obvious discrepancies of the internment camp experience was that the Japanese were singled out from German-Americans and Italian-Americans for the severe treatment.

"You soon began to realize that

here was a group of people who had been subjected to discrimination," said Claud Pratt, a Utahn who worked at the camp and became close to the internees.

"I felt like they didn't judge us as individuals," said Mrs. Matsuura.

To make matter worse, the Japanese internees ran into hatred in Utah. Mrs. Matsuura remembers a bus trip to Salt Lake City. She had been given permission to work to help support her sick mother at Topaz.

"The people on the bus looked at me and said, 'That's a Jap,'" she remembers. "They spit on me."

"I remembered thinking that some people do not have compassion. They

do not have feelings for others."

Pratt said his wife ran into similar problems when she took young Japanese from the camp into Delta for movies. And he himself remembers a sign in a Provo restaurant, "NO JAPS SERVED HERE."

"We just misunderstood them as a people," Pratt said.

Mrs. Matsuura's hardest memory is of her mother trying to understand the experience.

"I just can't understand it," her mother told her children. "I can understand why they would put me in a camp, but why my children, who are American citizens?"

Author and Red Cross worker Earl Kay Kirkham dies at 76

Lawyers claim bias

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Self-in

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"It should be winning," McEuen said. He said more money is being paid up paying more in defense costs than in judgments.

When reinsurance companies are pulling out of the market, many primary carriers are being forced out. McEuen said primary carriers are maintaining in the market despite inadequate policies and abnormally high rates.

Last year, McEuen said, reinsurance companies lost more than a billion, which prompted a 400 percent hike in rates for those cities able to get insurance.

For cities to again qualify for reinsurance, McEuen said, they must combine resources to develop adequate insurance money, adequate reserves and a management program, he said. He could hire a broker to help.

"We're being told that